

A. LAURENCE PARLOW
89 OAK LANE
ROCHESTER 10, NEW YORK

November 7, 1965

Mrs. Donald G. French
73 Grangemill Crescent
Don Mills, Ontario Canada

My dear Maida:

On our return to Rochester, I found your letter awaiting me. Am very happy to learn that you are going to do a biography of Kathleen Parlow for the Ryerson Press and know that you will do an excellent job. There is no one that I know of more qualified to do this work; and you will not find it easy.

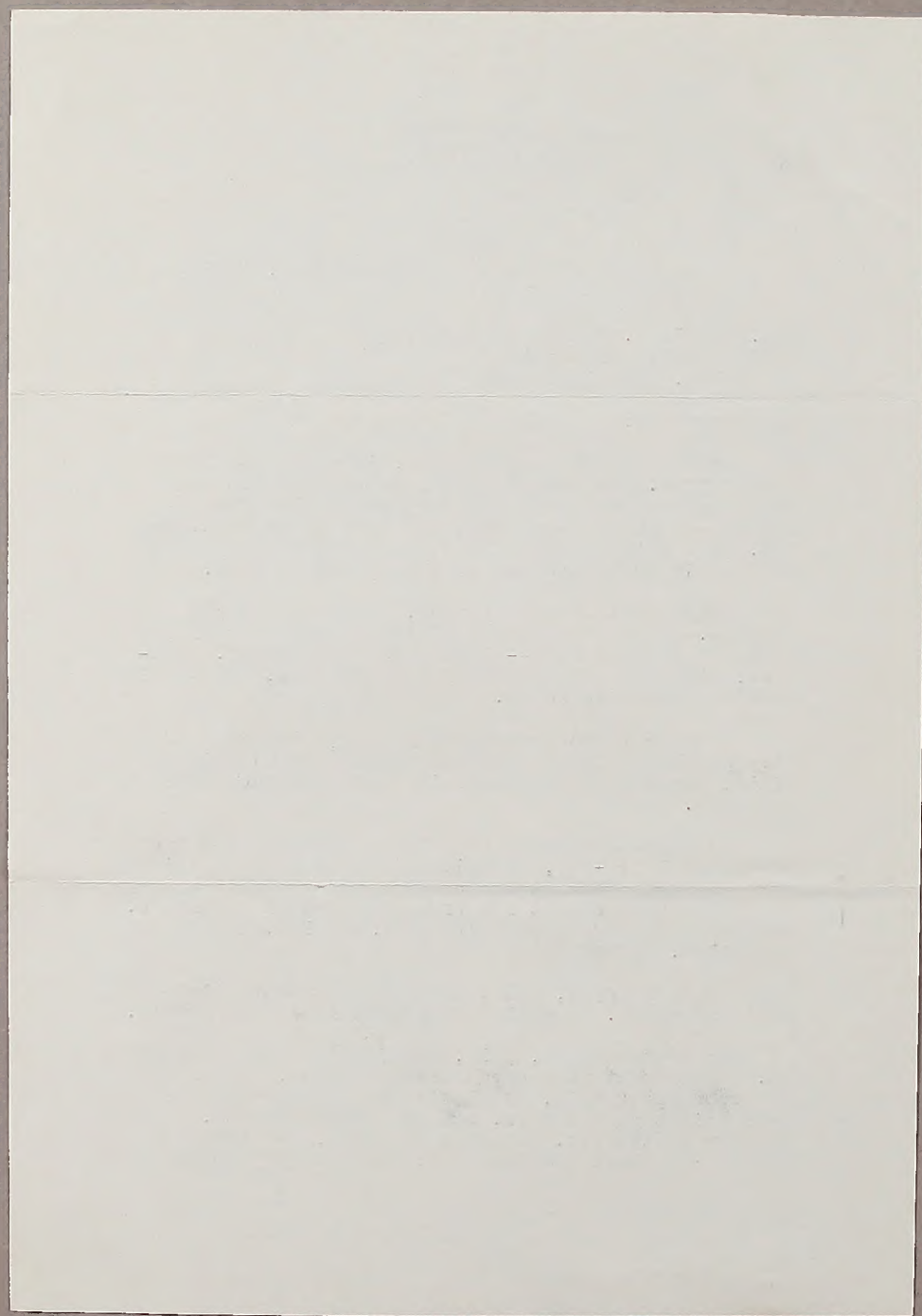
On receipt of your letter, I got out my old diaries. They were rather difficult to decipher and were not descriptive -- just dates and places. However, with the help of Henriette and Anne, I was able to have them make sense.

We then tried to contact you by telephone and were unable to find a listing under your name in Don Mills, but did get a number in Toronto which never answered.

1916
1917
My first contact with Kathleen was during the winter of 1916 - 17, at which time she and Aunt Minnie were living in a cottage in Meldreth - a small village in Cambridgeshire not far from the city of Cambridge. Was to spend a week end with them, but leaves were all cancelled.

On February 1, 1917, Kathleen and Aunt Minnie went to Norway. Shortly afterwards I went to France.

On September 22, 1917, a Major Alderson contacted me. He brought me regards from Kathleen. Major Alderson was a thin, atheletic gentleman about the same height as Kathleen. He commanded the 5th. Battery of the 1st. Canadian Division. He talked a great deal about Kathleen and, whereas he enjoyed



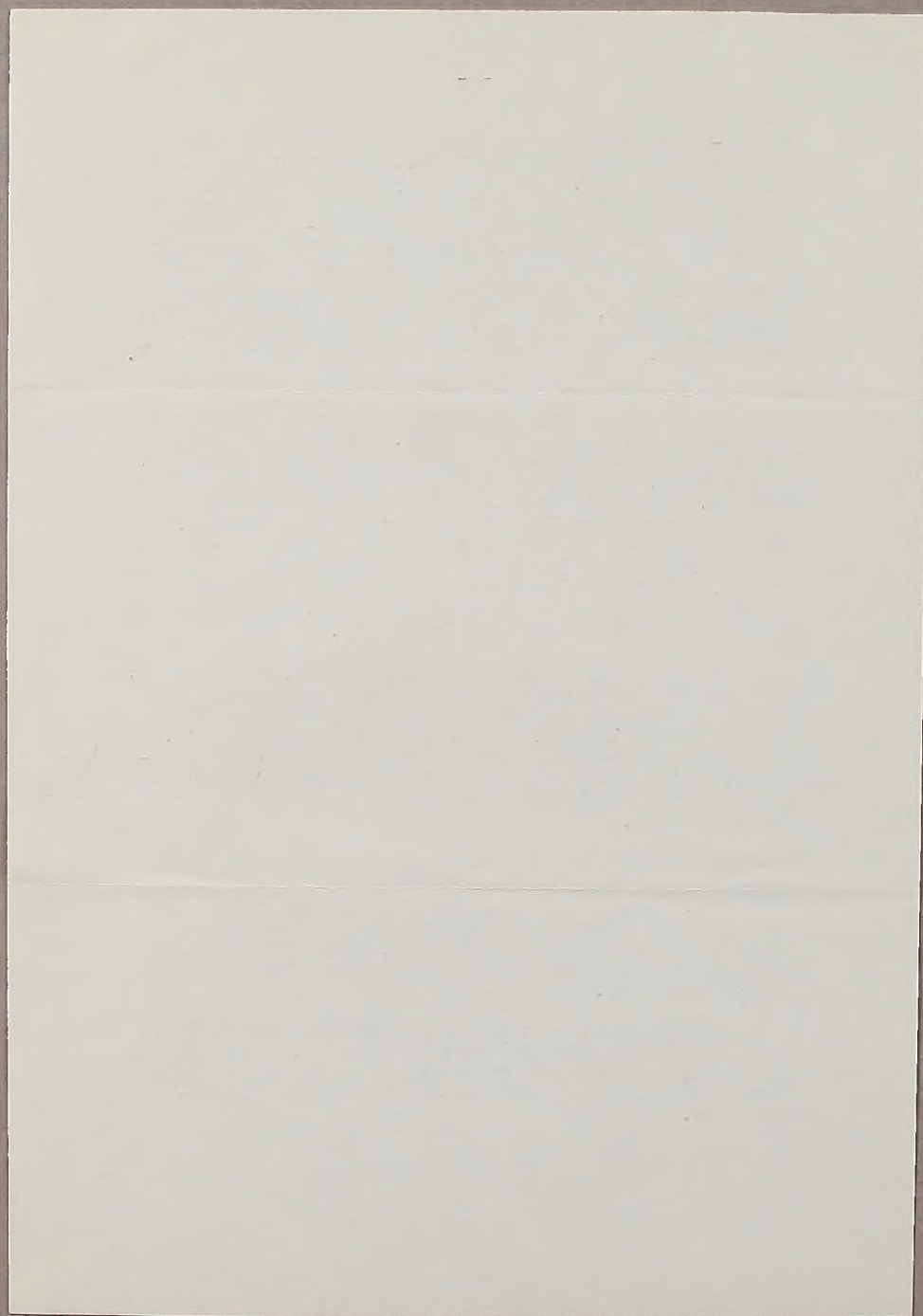
music - particularly the violin, I got the impression that he also enjoyed Kathleen. Certainly he liked to talk about her. During the next few months, the Major went to England on leave several times and on his return to France would contact me - usually with a package from Kathleen. ~~Now I see~~, Major Alderson may well have been the man in Kathleen's life and if ~~Aunt Minnie broke up this affair she did Kathleen a great injustice.~~ Major Alderson was not only a fine looking gentleman but also he was a very cultured and capable one. He returned to Canada in February 1918.

On November 11, 1918 (Armistice Day), I returned to England and during the next two months saw Kathleen and her mother quite frequently. At this time they lived in an artist type studio at 10 Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, London and not far from Lords Cricket Grounds. Their living room had a huge window that continued to include a great part of the ceiling. Perhaps you can visualize this type of room and can see Kathleen practicing for hours each day on her violin. Fortunately, the enemy bombing of London during World War I was not as frequent, extensive nor destructive compared to World War II.

Kathleen and Aunt Minnie were real good company. They seemed to enjoy French and Italian cooking and always knew of a restaurant where the chef prepared food to their liking; and I will add also to mine. England in those days had rationing of almost everything, but fortunately the Canadian Army did not lack for ration coupons and which I was able to send along to them.

Aunt Minnie was quite a talker and loved to elaborate on their various tours, crooked managers, etcetera. One place they enjoyed a great deal was Sinai, where Queen Marie of Romania had her summer Palace; and where Prince Michael, later the King, used to race his auto about the grounds in a most reckless manner.

Also, I believe that when World War I started Kathleen and her Mother were in Germany. They were given safe conduct to Switzerland by the Kaiser who knew them and would not cause Kathleen any inconvenience.



-3-

I am enclosing a copy of a program of a concert that Kathleen gave in Ottawa in 1912.

You are correct in saying that Kathleen was born in Old Fort Calgary. Also I assume that you know that her violin lessons in San Francisco were sponsored by Lord Strathcona, who was much impressed by her ability when she was still a youngster.

Maida, I do hope that all of this will be of some value to you and also of some help.

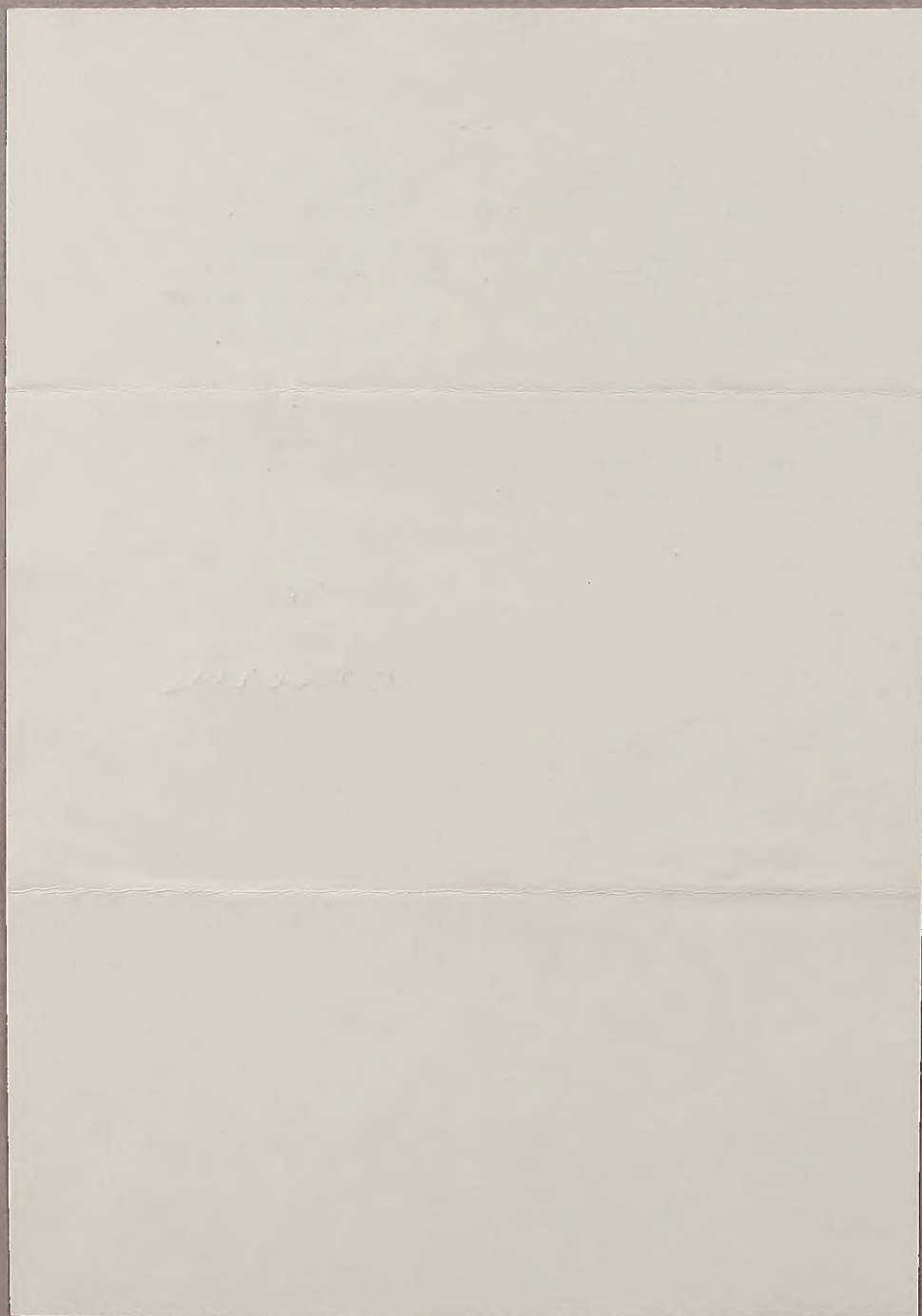
Henriette and I have stopped in Iroquois to say "hello" to Helen on several occasions. We hear from her each Christmas.

We both wish you every success with this biography.

Sincerely,

Laurie

ALP:hap



A copy of an old program found in one of Dr.
Allan B. Parlow's books at 4411 MacLaren Street, Ottawa.

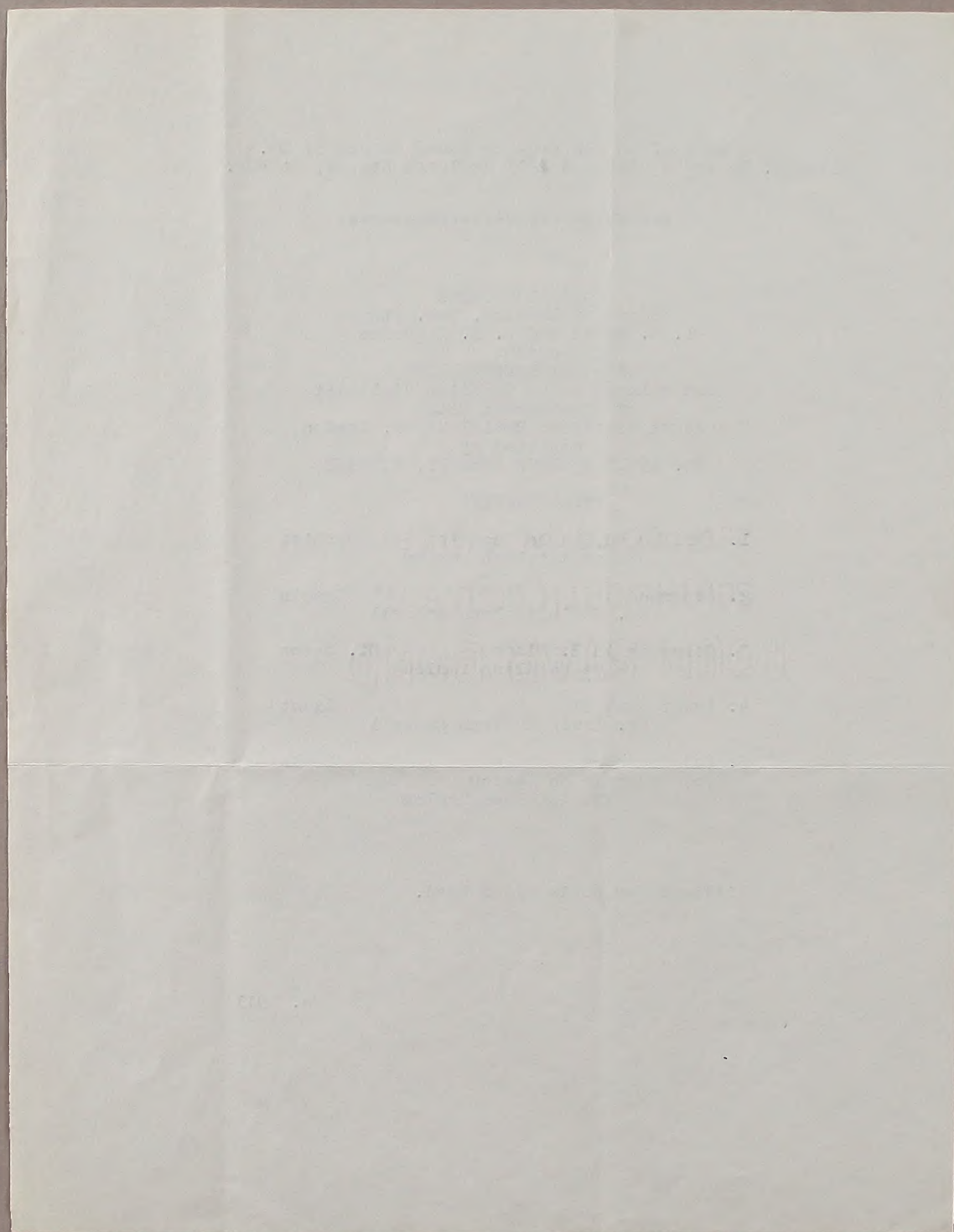
RUSSELL THEATRE
Wednesday Evening, Dec. 7th
L. M. Ruben and E. G. Lawrence
present
MISS KATHLEEN PARLOW
the eminent young Canadian Violinist
by arrangement with
concert direction Daniel Mayer, London
assisted by
MR. IRWIN EVELETH HASSELL, PIANIST

PROGRAMME

1. "Trille du Diable" sonate Tartini
 Miss Kathleen Parlow
2. Scherzo Chopin
 Mr. Irwin Eveleth Hassell
3. Concerto in B. Minor St. Saens
 Miss Kathleen Parlow
4. Faust Fantasie Lizst
 Mr. Irwin Eveleth Hassell
5. (a) Nocturne Chopin
 (b) Souvenir de Moscow
 Miss Kathleen Parlow

Williams New Scale Piano Used.

c. 1911



Excerpts from A. L. Parlow's Diary
1917

England

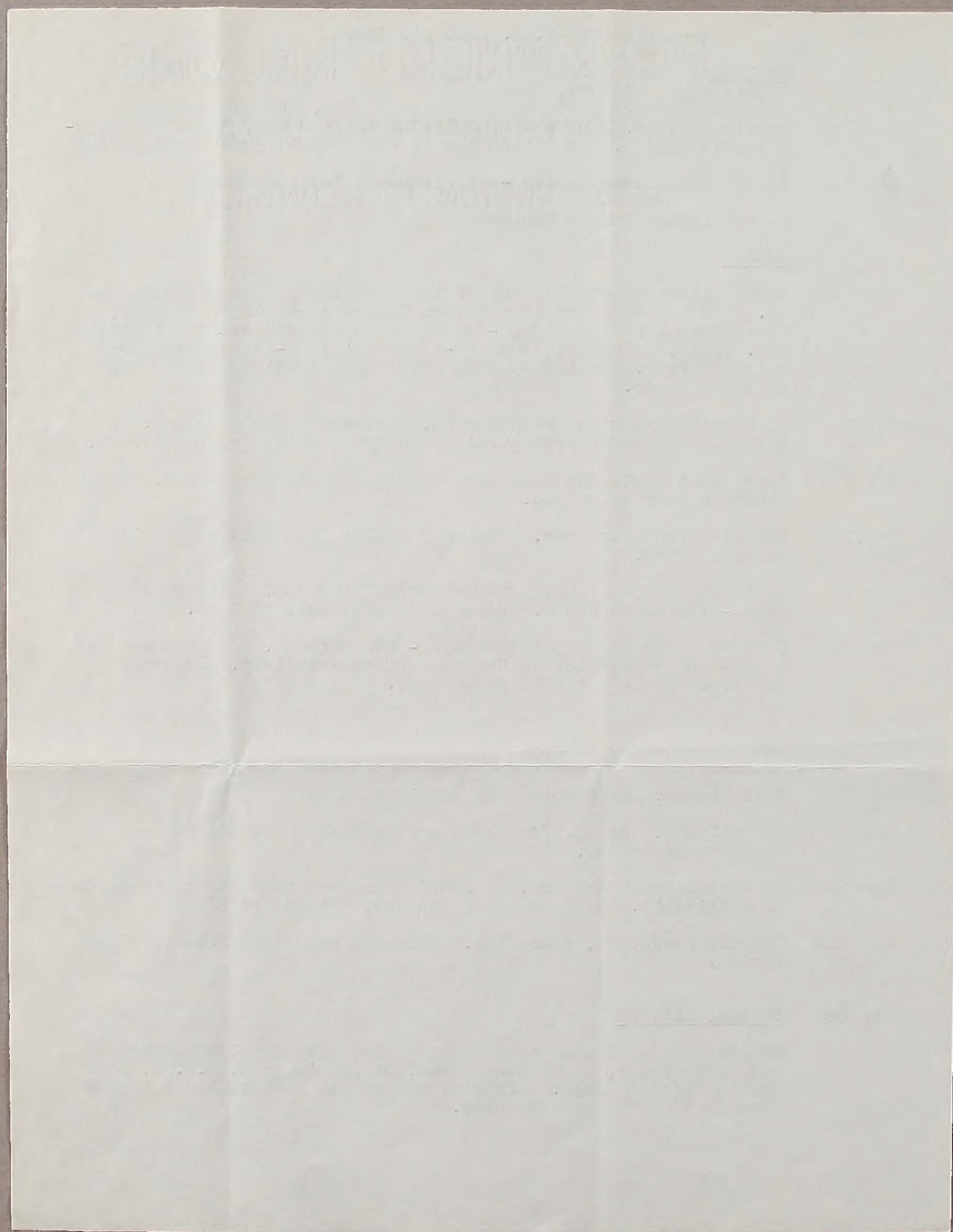
- Jan 29 Witley Camp, Milford, Surry
Invited to spend week with Kathleen Parlow, but all passes
were cancelled. (She was then living in Meldreth, Cambridgeshire-
a little hamlet. As I remember it was a small house with garden)
- Feb 1 Box from Kathleen Parlow - who leaves today for Norway
- Aug 11 Letter from Kathleen Parlow

France

- Sept 22 Major Alderson (5th Battery of 1st Canadian Division) looked me
up. (He was a friend of Kathleen Parlow's and Major Plummer,
Commander of 51st Battery - my battery) (Alderson: fine looking
man. Thin, athletic looking - about 5' 10" - dapper dresser
as to uniform. Talked a great deal about Kathleen and seemed
to enjoy music.)
- Oct 1 At Petite Bois which was near St. Pierre and Bully Grenay.
Received new socks from Kathleen Parlow through Major Alderson.
- Oct 8 Rumor that whole Canadian Corp was to move farther north. Major
Alderson over to see me.
- Nov. 1 Our division near Loos. Received apples from Kathleen Parlow
Dec 2 on both dates.
- Dec 7 Went over to 5th Battery to see Major Alderson. Battery is on
Lens - Lieven Road now. (Canadians made raid on Lens.)
- Dec 8 Over again to see Major Alderson - 5th Battery. He gave me
papers for commission in Canadian Field Artillery. Received
box from Kathleen Parlow (same day).

1918

- Feb 7 Near Lieven. Magazines from Kathleen Parlow
- Feb 22 Near Lieven. Letter from home saying that Major Alderson
was back in Canada.
- Apr 15 In Thelus Caves at Vimy. I found a gramophone with two records
of Kathleen's. As I remember one was, "Melody in F"
- Apr 22 Outside Mericourt, near Vimy. Received magazines from Kathleen
Parlow.
- Nov 22 London, England
Bus Waters and I went to tea and dinner with Kathleen Parlow
and Aunt Minnie, at 10 Abbey Road, St John's Wood, N.W. 8, near
Lord's Cricket Field. After dinner we all went to the Coliseum
Theatre to see a variety show.



- Dec 2 While at No. 2 London General Hospital, Chelsea, S. W., I
 recieved fruit from Aunt Minnie.
- Dec 22 London. Out to Kathleen Parlow's in afternoon and night.
 Kathleen ill with "flu".
- Dec 29 London. Lunch with Kathleen at her home.
- Dec 30 London. Lunch with Kathleen and Aunt Minnie in a restaurant.
- Dec 31 I left for Camp Bordon, and shortly returned to Canada.

